



**DELAWARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**Youth Council Meeting**

Delaware Department of Labor – Fox Valley  
4425 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19802  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Library Rm. 202  
Thursday May 26, 2015  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Attendees:** George Krupanski – Chairman, Sam Lathem Vice-Chair, Kathy Butler, Ed Capodanno, Felicia Kellum, Kenyetta McCurdy-Byrd, Carol Anne Obrien, Barbara Riley  
**Staff:** Gwen Jones, Evelyn Abreu  
**DET Staff:** Colleen Cunningham, Ashley Francica

**Approval of May 26, 2015 minutes:** Motion by Sam Lathem to approve minutes. Seconded by Ed Capodanno. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Scholarship Committee Report:** Kathy Butler began by walking the committee through the process of panel reviews, ranking of applications and award decisions. The results of the award were: Madeline McGrath (\$500), Kasey Mitchel (\$500) and Darian Corder (\$1000).

**Recommendations:** The Scholarship Committee received recommendations from the review panel for the process next year. We were glad to receive feedback, as this was the first year for the scholarship

Recommendations are:

- More information on personal statements
- Have the committee provide an example of a personal statement
- Also provide example of recommendation letter
- There should be 2 letters of recommendation
- No recommendations by relatives
- Look for community service or activity
- Get applications to the panels ahead of time in order to be able to review (have delivered earlier)

Group - There was considerable discussion on this topic. It was suggested that there be solicitation for younger youth and older youth to help us reach or assist with both age groups and the different types of assistance (i.e. worship/class/semester, etc. – certificates, degrees, etc.)

The committee talked about the fact that we ended up funding college classes only. There is concern that we are not going to reach the type of youth we wanted to originally award.

**Funding Sources for Scholarship:** Chairman Krupanski has sent letters to all board members. Staff is keeping track. He will report to the board at the next quarterly meeting to be held on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Ed Capodanno reminded the group of his earlier mention to include suggested amounts when we are asking for contributions.

**Summer Employment:** Chairman Krupanski asked the Division of Employment Training and Youth staff and Youth Council “What is our role in terms of summer youth employment?” Sam Lathem talked about how the Youth Council (in the PIC days) worked with employers to obtain a summer work experiences for youth. They had a county coordinator and city coordinator. The PIC Council was very hands on. They also stipend youth.

The DWIB staff as well as youth council members will pull together two meetings.

- 1) The DET Staff to learn or get smart about the summer youth program.
- 2) Afterward pull together the contractors who have been awarded Summer Youth Funds (Blue Collar) to talk about how we can help to get more jobs from Delaware business.

George went on to say that he believes we might have an advocacy role. Sam Lathem said the way it works now is that many people take care of their own (family, friends, associates) and many youth are disenfranchised from opportunities. There was major agreement on this by the others Youth Council members. Everyone agreed we should look at how summer youth is run and how we may be able to assist.

Barbara Riley and Carol Anne Obrien have agreed to assist with the two goals above. Colleen Cunningham and Ashley Francica provided information on contracted summer youth providers.

We will get contact information for them:

City of Wilmington

Department of Parks and Recreation

Latin American Community Center

Delaware Clergy

First State Community Action

Urban League

New Castle County Dept. Community Svcs.

**Social Media:** Remember to use social media when soliciting, marketing, etc. Doing so made a difference this year in the number of applications received for the scholarship.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Meeting Adjourned